

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-WR02-2010-076-EA**

**Little Mountain Travel Management Plan Environmental
Assessment, 2005 - Amendment, 2010**

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Little Mountain Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment, 2005 - Amendment, 2010

DOI-BLM-WY-WR02-2010-76-EA

INTRODUCTION:

This is an amendment to the Environmental Analysis conducted in 2005/2006, “*Little Mountain Travel Management Activity Plan (WY-020-EA05-049)*”. The amendment document is listed on the Wyoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register as, “*Little Mountain Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment, 2005, Amendment 2010. (DOI-BLM-WY-020-2010-76-EA)*”

The BLM, through working in the cooperative process with County, State, and members of the general public have garnered a new look into decisions made in an earlier environmental assessment (EA) and decision record (DR) for the Little Mountain Travel Management Activity Plan (WY-020-EA05-049).

The BLM participated in field tours, and promoted a listening session that was held on April 15, 2010. The environmental effects and impacts are very similar during the 2005/2006 analysis period; the BLM did not undertake new effects analysis in this Amendment, with one exception.

The Cody Field Office is currently working in tandem with the Worland Field Office to accomplish the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision. During the necessary work to complete the RMP, wilderness in character was examined. This element on the land is the only new resource that was analyzed in the new 2010 Amendment.

In accordance with 43 CFR § 8340, it is necessary for the BLM to address the public and administrative concerns with regard to access needs, while protecting resources, promoting safety, and to minimize conflicts among various uses on public lands.

Two alternatives were analyzed during this Amendment. Alternative I was to leave the existing Decision (2006) from the Travel Management Plan as current situation allows and Alternative II, the proposed action, was to amend the existing Decision (2006).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based upon a review of the Environmental Assessment and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described. In addition, no environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Cody Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Record of Decision, signed November 8, 1990, for these reasons an environmental impact statement is not needed.

Context:

The Action would occur within the Cody Field Office boundaries and would have local impacts on the resources similar to and within the scope of those described and considered within the Cody Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Record of Decision, signed November 8, 1990. The project is a site-specific action directly involving the west slope of Little Mountain (Cody Field Office Administrative Unit) that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

Intensity:

The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.

The Action/Alternatives would affect resources as described predominately in the 2005 EA (WY-020-EA05-049). Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to the various resources were incorporated in the design of the action alternatives. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA or Amendment are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the Cody Field Office Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

2. The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.

The proposed action is to allow for improved public health and safety through being able to provide more access to recreate. No aspect of the Action/Alternatives would have a negative effect on public health and safety.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

Wilderness characteristics were analyzed in the Amendment document.

Trout Creek, in the northern portion of the Travel Management plan area met the criteria of generally being affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. There are other criteria to meet as well, you may read the evaluation sheets at the following website address and click on the link that says "Multiple Use Lands with Wilderness Characteristics":

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Cody.html

No aspect of the Action/Alternatives would have an effect on wilderness in character for Trout Creek as the proposed changes to the Travel Management Plan in Alternative II, would be more than 7-8 miles south.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

Controversy in this context is considered to be in terms of disagreement about the nature of the effects– not political controversy or expressions of opposition to the action or preference among the alternatives analyzed within the EA.

Meeting with local and state officials and having a well published listening session for the public probably tempered any degree of controversy for the roads/routes that were to be considered for change.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are analyzed in the EA/Amendment. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions. The actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts – which include connected actions regardless of land ownership.

The environmental analysis did not reveal any cumulative effects beyond those already analyzed in the Cody Field Office Resource Management Plan FEIS/ROD. The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects have not changed and are not predicted.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

There are no features within the project area listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or the degree to which the action may adversely affect: 1) a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list.**

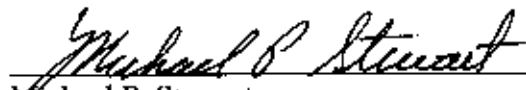
No endangered or threatened species or its habitat will be affected by this action or its alternative that may adversely affect 1) the proposed listing of the species or its habitat, or, 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list.

No threatened or endangered plants are known to occur in the area.

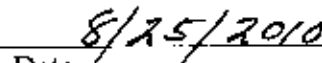
Timing, seasonal, or location, restrictions listed in the Appendix B of the Cody ROD, along with mitigating measures outlined in the 2005 EA and 2006, Decision Record for the Little Mountain Travel Management Activity Plan would be carried forward with this Amendment.

10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of a federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements.**

The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. In addition, the project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.



Michael P. Stewart
Cody Field Manager



Date